

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims

1. (Original) A heavy-vehicle tire comprising a tread which is formed from a cross-linked rubber composition, the composition comprising:
- (a) an elastomeric matrix comprising a diene elastomer having at one or more of its chain ends a functional group which is active for coupling to a reinforcing white filler;
- (b) a reinforcing filler comprising a reinforcing white filler in at least 50% by weight of total reinforcing filler; and
- (c) a reinforcing white filler/functionalized diene elastomer bonding agent.
2. (Original) The heavy-vehicle tire according to Claim 1, wherein the diene elastomer is a copolymer formed from a conjugated diene monomer and a vinyl-aromatic compound.
3. (Original) The heavy-vehicle tire according to Claim 2, wherein the copolymer has a glass transition temperature of between -70°C and -20°C and a mass content of vinyl-aromatic units from 10% to 50%.
4. (Original) The heavy-vehicle tire according to Claim 1, wherein the functional group which is active for coupling to a reinforcing white filler is formed from a silanol group or a polysiloxane block having a silanol end.

5. (Original) The heavy-vehicle tire according Claim 1, wherein the functional group which is active for coupling to a reinforcing white filler is formed from an alkoxy silane group.

6. (Original) The heavy-vehicle tire according to Claim 1, wherein the reinforcing white filler is silica in an amount of from 20 to 80 phr (parts by weight per hundred parts of the elastomeric matrix).

7. (Original) The heavy-vehicle tire according to Claim 6, wherein the silica has a CTAB specific surface area from 80 m²/g to 260 m²/g.

8. (Original) The heavy-vehicle tire according to Claim 1, wherein the reinforcing white filler/functionalized diene elastomer bonding agent is a polysulphurized alkoxy silane.

9. (Original) The heavy-vehicle tire according Claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises an alkyl alkoxy silane covering agent for the reinforcing white filler.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A heavy-vehicle tire comprising a tread which is formed from a cross-linked rubber composition, the composition comprising:

(a) an elastomeric matrix comprising a diene elastomer co-polymer formed from a conjugated diene monomer and a vinyl-aromatic compound, the copolymer having a glass transition temperature of between - 70°C and - 20°C and a mass content of vinyl-aromatic units from 10% to 50%, the elastomer having at one or more ends thereof a functional group which is

active for coupling to a reinforcing white filler, the functional group being formed from a compound selected from the group consisting of a silanol group, a polysiloxane block having a silanol end and an alkoxy silane,

(b) a reinforcing filler comprising at least 50% by weight of silica, the silica having a CTAB specific surface area from $80\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ to $260\text{m}^2/\text{g}$, and

(c) a polysulfurized alkoxy silane reinforcing white filler/functionalized diene elastomer bonding agent.

11. (Original) The heavy-vehicle tire according to Claim 10 wherein the silica is present in the composition in an amount of from 20 to 80 phr (parts by weight of the elastomeric matrix).

12. (Original) The heavy-vehicle tire according to Claim 10 wherein the composition further comprises an alkylalkoxysilane covering agent for the silica.

13-24. (Cancelled)